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REPORT OF THE ACC TASK FORCE ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES ON ITS TWENTIETH SESSION, GENEVA, 19-22 MARCH 1991

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. The twentieth session of the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives was held at Geneva from 19 to 22 March 1991, as decided by the Organizational Committee of ACC (see ACC/1990/2/Add.1, para. 31). The list of participants is contained in annex I.

2. In accordance with the mandate given the Task Force by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1990/52, entitled "Role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments", the Task Force reviewed current problems and prospective developments in the economic and social fields and considered ways to improve existing mechanisms for disseminating socio-economic forecasts, projections and qualitative analyses in a comprehensive and readily accessible form.

3. In response to a request by the Organizational Committee, the Task Force formulated an outline of a paper on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the United Nations system, including the review and appraisal of the implementation. The Task Force is to prepare the paper for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination in October 1991. The outline, which is to be submitted to the Organizational Committee at its meeting in April 1991, is contained in section III.D of the present report.

4. The Task Force took note of the report of its Technical Working Group on its fifteenth session, held in July 1990. The Task Force noted that the long-term assessments of the world economy presented by various agencies at that session were still valid, even if their short-term outlooks for 1990 and 1991, influenced by the effects of the Gulf conflict, proved to be too optimistic. There was general agreement in the Technical Working Group on long-term prospects of the world economy; small differences between the agencies' baseline scenarios stemmed from divergent assumptions about expected policy changes. The Task Force endorsed the usefulness of the Technical Working Group as a network for exchanging substantive views on methodology, databases, communication and other technical issues of modelling and forecasting. The Task Force requested the Working Group to review modelling and other analytical work on social and environmental aspects of development at its next session.

5. The Task Force considered a paper entitled "Outlines of thematic analyses" (ACC/1991/PG/CRP.4) prepared for the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ(PROG)), which had suggested at its meeting in March 1991 that the Task Force be asked to perform an inter-agency review of these analyses. Members of the Task Force were unclear whether the objective of the thematic analyses was primarily a substantive review of the issues in question or an overview of the activities of the United Nations system. While the nature and mandate of the Task Force equipped it to focus on long-term substantive analysis, members questioned the

usefulness of the proposed thematic analyses, as outlined, for making substantive analyses of issues of such complexity as international trade or poverty alleviation and wondered whether the thematic analyses would make it possible to hold the in-depth and focused discussion intended. On the other hand, the Task Force was not well-equipped to assess either the effectiveness and appropriateness of the programmatic distribution of resources or the general nature of the attention given to those issues in the United Nations system.

6. The Task Force discussed the agencies' attention to entrepreneurship and related issues in development. The Task Force noted that over the past few years the subject had attracted attention in almost every part of the United Nations system. A number of specialized agencies have programmes, sometimes in cooperation with other agencies, to encourage entrepreneurship in developing countries, countries in transition and, at times, in special contexts such as poverty alleviation, agriculture, environmental problems, refugee settlement and health services. It was noted that entrepreneurship would thrive if, inter alia, the national authorities provided an appropriate macro-policy environment and that programmes supported by the International Monetary Fund in individual countries encouraged the adoption of such policies.

7. The Task Force also discussed its future programme of work.

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ACC

8. The Task Force agreed to make the following recommendations to ACC through the Organizational Committee:

(a) Resource flows for development

1. Large new requirements for financial and other resources are expected in connection with the transition in Eastern Europe and reconstruction in the Gulf region. The long-term implications for overall flows of finance and technical assistance need examination by the competent agencies. ACC might for its part ask agencies to assess the consequences that might arise from the new situation for their own activities in the medium term.

(b) Promotion of exchange and dissemination of socio-economic forecasts, projections, and analyses

2. The use of different definitions and country groupings is a barrier to the exchange of projections and a source of confusion for Governments and other users of agency publications. A number of agencies also prepare indicators with the same or similar names, but different underlying definitions. A manual (published or machine-readable) could inform users about the definitions and country groupings used by each agency.

3. Member agencies should be discouraged from disseminating very divergent estimates of the same social or economic indicator for a given country; national Governments should be encouraged and assisted to take the lead in securing widely accepted measurements or estimates.

4. Faster progress in the adoption and use of modern information technology is necessary if agencies, Governments and other users are to benefit from the avalanche of socio-economic research findings available in the databases in the United Nations system and outside it. The efforts of the Advisory Committee for Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) to facilitate access and promote communication links within the system are very cost-effective and should be given higher priority.

5. Electronic mail is the international standard for rapid information exchange, but most of the United Nations system is not linked up. Agencies should be urged to take immediate steps to remedy this situation. The report of CCAQ (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) to ACC rightly urges training of staff in the use of electronic data technology; without it hardware installations will be futile.

(c) Review and assessment of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

6. The strategy provides for biennial reviews and assessments by the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (see A/45/849/Add.1, para. 112). Certain resolutions and decisions impose on various agencies the obligation to report directly to the Council on the implementation of parts of the Strategy. In addition, they have been instructed to report on their own implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex), as well as on the implementation by Governments. For some agencies this task is indistinguishable from that of reviewing the implementation of the Strategy. In the interest of Governments and agencies alike, the procedure for the biennial reviews should avoid unnecessary confusion and overlap.

(d) Future work of the Task Force and its Technical Working Group

7. The Task Force sees no need for another meeting in the course of 1991 but suggests that the next meeting be held in Geneva in March 1992.

8. The Task Force recommends that the next meeting of the Technical Working Group not be postponed until 1992 but be held in the second half of 1991, in order to allow the Working Group to address a number of important issues relating to the integration of social

elements in the modelling work of agencies (notably demographic variables, education and health), to consider progress made in the integration of economic and environmental projections and analyses and to review the compatibility of sectoral assessments (e.g. agriculture) and overall macroeconomic assessments produced by the agencies of the United Nations system.

II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

A. Review of mandates

9. Opening the meeting, the Chairman said that dramatic events had taken place since the last meeting of the Task Force in March 1990. These had undoubtedly been reflected in the activities and forward thinking of agencies and would have to be reflected in the discussion. In addition, the Task Force had received a number of requests from the Economic and Social Council and ACC, which had to a large extent shaped its agenda. In response to Council resolution 1990/52, member agencies of the Task Force had submitted brief written statements of their views on new and emerging long-term issues in their fields of competence.

10. In resolution 1990/52, the Council requested the Task Force to consider ways of improving the exchange and dissemination of forecasts and other types of analyses. In addition, the Task Force had been requested by the Organizational Committee of ACC to formulate an outline of a background paper on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the United Nations system, including the review and appraisal of the implementation. The Task Force is to submit the outline to the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination in October 1991. The Task Force had also received for review from CCSQ(OPS) a document entitled "Goals and strategies for the 1990s - operational implications of the Fourth IDS". Furthermore it was requested to review a document entitled "Outlines of thematic analyses" (ACC/1991/PG/CRP.4), prepared by CCSQ(PROG) in response to a Council decision to conduct an in-depth discussion on the themes of poverty and trade at its regular session in 1992.

11. Finally, in connection with the review of the ACC machinery by the Organizational Committee, the Chairman of the Task Force had written to the Chairman of the Organizational Committee, in order to emphasize the very limited capacity of the Task Force, a small group of officials who meet for only a few days each year, without a budget for secretariat services. Therefore, expectations concerning the Task Force must be realistic. That should be borne in mind if the Council's designation of the Task Force in resolution 1990/52 as the focal point for the mutual exchange among agencies of assessments of prospective developments in the economic and social fields in order to improve the existing mechanism for disseminating socio-economic forecasts and projections in accessible form, was to be meaningful. Within its narrow limitations, the Task Force could provide a niche for informal

encounters among the agencies, for which there was little opportunity elsewhere. However, it was important not to assign it tasks that it could not perform.

B. Assessment of current problems and prospective developments in the economic and social fields

12. A number of member agencies had submitted brief statements on the current problems and prospective developments in their fields of competence and on the likely impact of recent events on present and future work of the United Nations system. This section contains a synthesis of those statements, supplemented by additional views presented during the session.

13. The adoption and implementation of adjustment programmes in many countries have improved prospects for growth, price stabilization, and balance of payments in many developing countries, although actual growth rates, inflation and external imbalances remain worrisome (International Monetary Fund), along with high rates of population growth (United Nations Population Fund). Stagnation continues in most of the highly indebted developing economies, the least developed countries, Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and there is an apparent slowdown in world economic growth. Continued instability in international prices has underlined the limitations of any national economic policy in pursuit of external stability and internal growth and has brought into question the viability of externally oriented development strategies (GATT). Large imbalances in international markets for capital and labour are a threat (ESCAP).

14. External debt (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and the falling prices of most of the South's exports, except oil (International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNFPA), greatly burden many of the developing countries. The possibility of marginalization of many developing countries is increasing (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), especially those in the "fourth world" (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development). Continued high population growth and unemployment in the South may increase migration to the North, though the surplus labour of Eastern Europe may intervene (IFAD, UNFPA). Increased migration of refugees within and between regions is pressuring recipient countries to revise traditional concepts of refugee status and to restrict the granting of asylum. Solutions to present and future refugee problems require better understanding of their linkage with political, economic, social and environmental factors, including human rights (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Environment Programme).

15. In addition to the direct destruction from military conflicts in Western Asia (ESCWA), large-scale repatriation and related changes in flows of remittances and trade could have regional effects. Given its food deficit, the attitudes in the region towards food self-sufficiency may be re-evaluated (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). Food security, and transport and communications continue to be major problems for Africa

(Economic Commission for Africa). There are a number of regional conflicts over boundaries; many of these are ethnic conflicts (UNRISD) that require a combination of political mediation and social development, as well as a fairer distribution of economic opportunies among ethnic groups.

16. The global economy will face a continuing shortage of global savings and the related impact of high world interest rates (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, International Monetary Fund). Some increase in global savings, both in industrial and developing countries, may be foreseen in the next few years, which, though still well below the savings rates achieved earlier, may reduce pressures in money markets and thereby contain international interest rates (IMF). In addition to the normal business investment required to sustain growth, financial capital is needed for restarting growth in the least developed countries; resolving the third world's debt-service problems; rebuilding stocks of plant and equipment depleted by years of stagnant investment, and more generally, providing the plant, equipment and infrastructure for an estimated 500 million new workers in the developing countries and China between now and the year 2000; assisting Eastern Europe and the USSR in the major restructuring and rehabilitation of their economies; reconstruction in Kuwait and Iraq; and cleaning up and protecting the environment, notably in the Gulf region (GATT, UNEP, Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat). In addition, German reunification has decreased the supply of savings to the world economy from western Germany, as such savings are increasingly being channeled to the renovation of eastern Germany (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development). The high demand for credit to finance budget deficits and reconstruction will probably put upward pressure on interest rates in the early 1990s. In the second half of the 1990s, the larger budget deficits will probably narrow, while demographic trends may further improve the savings rate (at least in the United States, but perhaps not in Germany and Japan). At the same time, moderate growth in the industrialized countries may lower inflation. Together, these developments could place the interest rates of industrialized countries on a generally declining trend through the 1990s (World Bank). Avoiding a global capital shortage hinges on increasing private household savings and reducing government dissaving in the form of budget deficits in the larger countries (GATT). The developing countries could probably enhance their own growth through the same measures, especially countries that have difficulty obtaining external finance (World Bank). More generally, developing countries can improve their access to external finance by improving their domestic policy environment (IMF) and their creditworthiness (World Bank).

17. In many of the low-income oil-importing countries, longer-term efforts at economic reform and structural adjustment will need to be supported through renewed efforts to expand existing trade opportunities and develop additional sources of financial resources (GATT).

Trade

18. The ongoing integration of the world economy will simultaneously create pressures for more open markets and increase the importance of having effective rules, disciplines and procedures for resolving trade-related disputes (GATT). Improving their international competitiveness, especially in industry and related technology, is a major challenge for many developing countries, even those that have achieved significant industrialization (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). International trade in technologically advanced (high-tech) products and services is rapidly increasing, as are facilities for and transmission of international communication (GATT). While most of the trade is among the developed countries, more of the developing countries must become able to participate in the production and use of these products and services. The importance of developing their human resources in the relevant scientific and technical fields is obvious, but the best way of doing this is not clear, given their many other needs.

19. The appropriate role of regionalism in a globalizing economy is unclear (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). The apparent trend of emerging regional economic blocs (ECA, ECLAC), especially in the North, may put pressure on other countries to increase cooperation in their own regions. The prospective integrated markets in Europe and North America may reduce South-North exports (IFAD), though European integration may contribute to more sustained global growth, especially if open economic policies in agriculture are implemented (IMF). The emergence of free trade areas is not likely to prove harmful so long as the principle of non-discrimination is applied. That is, there should be no increase in external barriers (World Bank). The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations may raise world agricultural prices, helping exporters but hurting food importers (WFC). Given the critical role of agricultural exports in developing countries, failure to obtain general guarantees for trade liberalization in agricultural commodities poses a threat to development, not least because of the possibility of government-mediated trade in agricultural commodities between developed areas and ex-Eastern bloc countries, where potential productivity gains are large (IFAD). On the other hand, the successful transition of these countries would eventually increase the demand for basic commodity exports of the developing countries. For instance, the export of tropical beverages would probably rise (World Bank, FAO). While the evolution of the industrial sector of Eastern Europe cannot easily be predicted, its entry into the international market poses, at least in principle, a major difficulty for developing countries. Few developing countries could hope to emulate the pattern of development of the newly industrialized countries of the 1970s and 1980s; development in the future would have to be more internalized and self-reliant, with more emphasis on agriculture and rural development (IFAD, FAO).

20. Regardless of the outcome of the February 1991 renewal of the Uruguay Round negotiations, there will be a need for continuing efforts to reduce trade barriers and continually review, update and extend GATT rules, disciplines and procedures, as well as its responsibilities in the areas of surveillance and enforcement (GATT).

Development finance

21. There have been some positive developments in the availability of development finance. Data in the World Bank's most recent World Debt Tables record steadily rising aggregate net financial flows to developing countries, starting in 1988. Official grants from countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and foreign direct investment were the major sources of the increase. There also has been forgiveness of official debt, concessional rescheduling for low-income debtor countries, successful officially supported commercial bank debt and debt-service reduction operations, an increase in aggregate net resource flows to developing countries, and some improvement in debt indicators. But the debt crisis is not over. For many middle-income countries with strong adjustment programmes, access to voluntary private lending is limited. Other middle-income countries have not managed to sustain adjustment efforts and face worsening relationships with creditors. Some lower-middle and low-income countries have heavy bilateral official debt burdens and are unlikely to achieve external viability without more concessional debt relief or an equivalent increase in concessional assistance (World Bank, IMF).

22. The economies of some developing countries continue to perform poorly because of rapid inflation and unsustainable balance-of-payments positions, due in part to inappropriate domestic financial policies (IMF). Development finance may become scarcer in the immediate period ahead, as the threat of recession in some of the major economies and the recent declining trend in world savings are constraining the willingness and ability of donor countries to respond to the needs of developing countries (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, IMF). Diminishing capital inflows and continuing weaknesses in the markets for most primary commodities have increased the debt-servicing problems of many developing countries. At the same time, the transformation of previously centrally planned economies has increased the global requests for financial assistance and other resources. An important question is whether any particular set of developing countries is likely to be especially affected by greater global demands on the shrinking volume of global savings (IMF). The reduction in East-West conflict may promote indifference on the part of major economic Powers to many developing areas (GATT). East-West relaxation has reduced their interest in financing local conflicts. The opportunity for greater peace and stability within the developing world may provide the basis for institutional stabilization and a reduction of military and police expenditures (IFAD). The trend towards proliferation of nuclear weapons must be dealt with (UNRISD).

23. Limitations on the future growth of assistance, combined with external instability, promise an era of great economic uncertainty in long-term planning. While economic reforms have increased institutional flexibility, institutions may not have sufficient resources to function. National and international commitments to reduce the role of government have not always been accompanied by equal and parallel development of alternatives. There is perhaps a certain contradiction between international demands for democracy and the material evisceration of those institutions that are requested to

respond to democratic demands. At the same time, the North may seek to impose new types of conditionality related to democratization and the recipients' efficiency in using aid. Perhaps less reliance should be placed on unaided efforts of recipient countries to reform in order to meet these expectations - and more on assistance for the creation of more democratic and participatory structures. Increasingly, aid is being implicitly tied to a particular vision of appropriate social order, and the multilateral agencies should respond positively to this (IFAD).

24. Food aid can be efficiently used if programmes are designed to avoid disincentive effects on local farmers (World Food Programme). A large part of food aid is additional to other types of assistance. However, because food aid is also supply-driven, more flexibility is required in the way it is provided and used in order to respond better to the needs of recipient countries. Food aid should be provided to the final beneficiaries in ways that lead to a positive income transfer to them. In the allocation of food aid, high priority should be accorded to meeting nutritional and emergency requirements. Beyond these humanitarian objectives, food aid can be useful if it is provided in a sustainable way and is integrated with food security strategies and overall development programmes of the recipient countries, so that it does not create disincentives to local production and dependency of the population on outside supplies (FAO).

25. The growing preoccupation of the relatively advanced States with affairs of common interest to themselves suggests that the long-term development of less advanced areas will depend upon better utilization of their own resources, individually and in collaboration. This involves greater utilization of local resources in agricultural development, better exploitation of regional markets, regional division of labour, etc. In essence, what both donors and recipients want is a more democratic and self-reliant "third world". The challenge to development agencies is to demonstrate that international assistance can contribute to this (IFAD).

Economies in transition

26. The transition to market-oriented economies in Eastern Europe, the USSR and some developing countries has turned out to be more problematic than was expected one year ago. Experience so far suggests that the transition will be more protracted, require more external assistance and have more severe, immediate social effects than expected initially (IMF). The pressing need to increase the efficiency of these economies must be weighed against the need to maintain equity - in particular, the need to maintain adequate safety nets when large numbers of workers are displaced from inefficient enterprises (International Labour Organisation). Disruptions in the Soviet and East European food sectors have led to food shortages and increased hunger, at least in the short term. Imports of staple foods, including food aid, have generally risen. Over the long run, the demand of these countries for food imports from developing countries, in particular tropical products, could increase (World Food Council).

27. The removal of constraints on emigration from Eastern Europe may lead to greatly increased flows of migrants to Western Europe (UNRISD, UNHCR). On the other hand, if the transition continues at a fairly rapid pace in Eastern Europe, there may be diversion of trade, aid and investment away from some traditional North-South patterns towards new West-East flows (IFAD, UNIDO). The World Bank will work closely with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international institutions in support of the transition; Bank lending for this purpose is envisaged at about $2.5 billion a year (World Bank), while the commitments of IMF are expected to total nearly $5 billion (IMF).

28. A review of experience in privatization and free-market policy would be useful (IMF). National institutions seem inadequate to cope with the transition (IFAD); appropriate balances among democratization, political power, property and economic regulation remain to be worked out (UNRISD). Domestic policy reforms are needed to deal with the impact of the transition on agricultural production, consumption, trade and aid, and to redefine the role of the public sector in rural development, access to food and food security (FAO). More efficient interaction between the public and private sectors requires reform of the executive branch itself in some countries (ECLAC). Greater integration of development planning and annual budgeting is needed (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development). A related question is the ability of the expanding private sector to provide adequate revenues to maintain basic public services (ESCAP).

Environment and sustainable development

29. The development agenda for the 1990s should centre on the interrelated issues of population, poverty and environment. The vicious circle created by these three interrelated phenomena can and must be broken by an integrated approach aimed at fertility and mortality decline, poverty eradication and environmental protection. Encouragingly, recent discussions concerning the likely development priorities for the 1990s have acknowledged these issues as critical. However, translating these encouraging signs into real improvement for the 4 billion people already living in developing countries will require considerably bolder political and financial commitments by both national and international parties, as well as the formulation and implementation of cost-effective programmes (UNFPA).

30. The Governing Council of UNEP has identified "priority evolving environmental issues", which are to be considered in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992: climate change, transboundary air pollution, protection of ocean and coastal areas, combating desertification, fresh water, hazardous substances and biological diversity, and biotechnology. The Council has also identified priority approaches to dealing with the foregoing problem areas: environment, economics and sectoral policies; regional and subregional environment programmes; resources for protection of the environment of developing countries and funding mechanisms; transfer of environmentally sound technology; and public participation. 1/ The forthcoming FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment could provide important insights and policy recommendations on agriculture/environment issues (FAO, WFC).

31. Population growth and environmental degradation are reaching crisis proportions in many developing areas, threatening food security. Overpopulation and poverty force poor people to engage in unsustainable agricultural practices that promote soil depletion, deforestation and desertification, which lead to deeper poverty and more hunger. To break this vicious cycle and reduce world hunger, especially in rural areas, the key issues will be how to promote effective family planning (UNFPA), including processes of economic and social change that reduce the incentives for having large families, and how to promote agricultural practices that permit sustainable increases in food production (WFC), while maintaining biological diversity (UNEP). Pollution and waste disposal are alarming problems for most industrial areas, especially in the developing countries and Eastern Europe (UNIDO, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)). These problems are aggravated by inappropriate technologies, rapidly growing population and an increase in consumption in the larger urban areas relative to rural areas in developing countries (Habitat).

32. Achieving an adequate rate of growth and standard of living, on a sustainable basis, will require careful management of natural resource development (ECLAC). Given their resource and poverty constraints, developing countries face difficult trade-offs in implementing policies for environmental protection (World Bank). A related issue is local control of resources for the benefit of local people, versus the need to limit harmful global environmental impacts and preserve unique resources. A balance between particularistic and universalistic world views must eventually be struck, reconciling local identity in opposition to centralizing forces (UNRISD). It is necessary to carefully relate short-term with long-term, and local with national and global development objectives, in order to build mutual support between economic efficiency and growth with prudent environmental management (UNEP).

33. Sustainable development implies incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations in development planning and policies; it does not imply encroachment upon national sovereignty and does not represent a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing (UNEP). Environmentally sound technology must be developed and made available in developing countries (Centre for Science and Technology for Development and Department of Technical Cooperation for Development). Greater energy efficiency is needed (UNIDO), as are new and renewable sources of energy (ECA), but the high short-run investment cost is a deterrent (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development). In response to requests from countries, UNEP, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies, provides guidance to deal with specific environmental management challenges and to help implement an integrated approach to environment and development. In order to participate fully in addressing global environmental problems, such as climate change, and deal effectively with national environmental challenges, developing countries, especially low-income and least developed countries, need additional financial resources, relief from debt-service burdens, better terms of trade and more open market access to exports. Improving access of countries, including developing countries, to environmentally sound technology is also important.

34. World Bank assistance activities aim at integrating environmental policies into national development strategies. World Bank policies focus on five clusters of environmental issues: destruction of natural habitats; land degradation; degradation and depletion of fresh-water resources; urban, industrial and agricultural pollution; and degradation of the global commons. In order to deal with some aspects of these issues, the World Bank is collaborating with other concerned multilateral institutions on major international initiatives, such as the implementation of the funding mechanism of the Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility, which will be operated in cooperation with UNEP and UNDP. The Facility is a three-year pilot project of the order of 1 to 1.5 billion special drawing rights (SDRs). The Bank intends to integrate Facility projects into normal lending operations and to ensure a high standard of quality through project reviews by Bank technical advisers and outside specialists (World Bank).

Environment and economics 2/

35. In order to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development, environmental considerations must be incorporated into economic thinking and approaches. Environmental analysis must be integrated with economic analysis, e.g. in environmental impact assessment, cost-benefit analysis and accounting, land use planning and regional development planning. Market mechanisms must be made to respond to environmental needs. Development indicators must measure progress in protecting the environment as well as economic and social gain. When environmental costs and benefits are not adequately included, markets give misleading signals, recording financial gains where in fact long-term economic losses are occurring. Agricultural policies may induce farmers to occupy marginal forests and woodlands, to use excessive quantities of pesticides and fertilizers, or to waste scarce water.

36. United Nations agencies and research organizations have been cooperating to develop natural resource accounting techniques to produce meaningful economic indicators for sustainable development. UNEP is monitoring and analysing physical environmental indicators, while the World Bank and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat are monitoring and analysing economic and financial indicators. The two approaches will be combined to monitor environmentally sound development. Outside of the United Nations, OECD is developing indicators to assist in the integration of environmental and economic decision-making.

37. Instruments to identify and correct "market failures" are becoming particularly significant, as market-based economic systems gain prominence in Eastern Europe and parts of the third world. Environmental charges (e.g. for irrigation water), appropriate pricing of goods and services (e.g. for energy), taking account of environmental costs, environmental taxes (e.g. a carbon tax) and application of the "polluter pays" principle, are all promising instruments to improve the environment, as well as economic efficiency in the allocation of resources. Government subsidies often encourage overuse of natural resources, fertilizers and pesticides. Unless prices for raw materials and products reflect their environmental and social

costs, the natural resource base will be overexploited, pollutants will be disposed of in damaging ways and environmental problems will increase. More work is needed on the economics of transfrontier pollution in terms of the downstream effects.

38. Environmental measures may affect international competitiveness and trade. Such measures include product standards and other trade measures used as enforcement mechanisms for multilateral environmental agreements (GATT). The introduction of "green consumer" arrangements in some countries could create non-tariff trade barriers requiring international consultation and cooperation (UNEP). Increased public awareness of environmental issues and heightened concerns about food quality (e.g. residues of pesticides) may affect agricultural development and trade via country policies (FAO) and via the market. Product standards and harmonized regulations may be considered in ongoing discussions among UNEP, GATT and UNCTAD. The work of FAO and WHO on the Codex Alimentarius already contributes in this area as regards safety of food products (FAO). Similarly, trade in environmentally hazardous substances (e.g. pesticides) has to be based on the principles of prior informed consent by, and full availability of relevant information to, the importing country (UNEP). Trade and capital flows are needed to stimulate economic growth, thus providing the financial, human and physical resources needed for environmental protection (GATT).

39. Structural adjustment programmes have an impact on the environment and the use of natural resources by altering resource prices, taxes, subsidies and expenditures. Sustainable management of natural resources and the environment has only recently begun to be addressed explicitly as part of adjustment lending operations. There is new interest in facilitating the flow of capital and environmentally sound technology to developing and Eastern European countries to assist them in protecting the environment. Another consideration is the possible relationship between the environment and external debt of developing countries. With little else to fall back on, the resource-based economies may sometimes be forced to use their ecological capital and non-renewable natural resources at an unsustainable rate to pay their debts. One way to deal with both the debt and environmental problems is the use of so-called debt-for-nature swaps, which involve the purchase of developing country debt at discounted values in the secondary debt market, and the cancelling of the debt in return for environment-related activities on the part of the debtor nation. They will not in themselves solve either the debt or the environmental problem, but they can alert policy and decision makers to the degradation of unique and fragile areas and help to improve environmental management, natural resource productivity and economic growth prospects (UNEP).

40. Sectoral development policies have significant environmental impacts, as major development decisions are made in sectoral departments of national Governments. Mutual cooperation between those departments and national environmental machineries must be enhanced and environmental considerations have to be incorporated in sectoral policies and programmes. A number of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, e.g. FAO, UNESCO and UNIDO, have an important role in advising and supporting the sectoral departments.

Government environmental institutions need to strengthen their technical knowledge and competence to interact effectively with sectoral departments and ministries. Since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, experience has shown that while the existence of appropriate national environmental legislation and decision-making machinery is fundamental, it generally needs to be supplemented by economic incentives and disincentives to ensure that household and enterprise decisions contribute best to achieving national and global environmental goals (UNEP).

Domestic resource mobilization and the human dimension of development

41. The demographic trends for the years ahead and their possible impact on world economy are fairly predictable. The decade of the 1990s will experience an even larger absolute increase in population in the developing countries than occurred in the 1980s. There will be a striking North-South difference in age structure. It is projected that all the net future growth in the world's young adult population (aged 15 to 25 years) will take place in the developing countries. The number of new jobs that must be created to accommodate these new entrants in the labour market will be more than the total number of jobs that exist at present in the industrialized world as a whole. Developing countries therefore may anticipate a "youth revolution" similar to that experienced in the late 1960s in the industrialized countries (UNDP).

42. High population growth, unemployment and underemployment in most of the developing countries imply continued pressure for large-scale migration to the North, where the prognosis is a shrinking, or slowly growing labour supply. In the near term, however, the entry of the surplus labour of Eastern Europe into the supply equation limits prospects for labour mobility from the less developed countries. An orderly connection among these situations will be a key element in assuring the economic and social stability of both the developed and developing countries (IFAD, UNFPA).

43. Poverty and hunger continue for a large share of the population in developing countries and are worsening in urban areas, reflecting continued rapid rural-urban migration, as well as the problems of the global economy and the environment (WFC). The social costs of the adjustment programmes initiated in the 1980s were high and remain unfairly burdensome on relatively weak social sectors and economic groups; they must be reduced in the 1990s (ILO). Social equity requires policies for redistribution both to reduce poverty and to increase social and political cohesiveness (ECLAC).

44. Looking beyond the problems caused or worsened by adjustment, long-term concern for employment and poverty must focus on the need to produce and use higher-level skills, as well as the absorption of large numbers of unskilled and low-skilled workers (ILO). Human resources need to be developed along with, or even before, physical investment - in order to facilitate planning and implementation and promote efficient management and maintenance, as well as construction and installation. In the case of shipping, port development and management, for example, there is a shortage of maritime expertise in developing countries and insufficient facilities for training in this field (IMO).

45. The world economy is undergoing a virtual revolution as a result of advances in informatics and communication technologies. Also, there are inevitable dislocations for the countries in transition to market-oriented development. As competitiveness, productivity, efficiency, knowledge-based skills and management capacities become the main factors of economic development, investment in people and the upgrading of their potential need to receive the highest priority. Growth of world output is being generated not so much by additional capital as by improvements in people's capabilities. The service sectors - especially the new and technologically enhanced sectors - are key sources for new job opportunities. Technological development is increasingly information-based, rather than energy- or product-oriented. The concept of "economy of scope" is replacing or complementing that of "economies of scale". People - armed with management capabilities and specialized education and skills and supported by the new technological facilities for informatics and communications - are becoming the engines of rapid economic growth (UNDP).

46. The ability of the developing countries to select, or develop, and assimilate appropriate technology should be increased (Centre for Science and Technology for Development, UNIDO). The concept of what is appropriate should include the scale, which may affect the distribution of benefits; small- and medium-scale technologies may help both to accelerate industrialization and to widen the distribution of benefits (UNIDO). Productive transformation with social equity can be achieved, particularly in the ECLAC region, through greater international competitiveness, based on technological progress. Industrialization will allow the absorption and dissemination of technical progress. Competitiveness must be incorporated into the entire economic and social structure (ECLAC).

47. New policies are needed to alleviate poverty in both urban and rural areas, including promotion of small-scale agriculture and rural-based industries. Urban-only policies will hasten the migration and worsen the already difficult conditions in urban areas (WFC, Habitat). The lack of resources for rural development may be counteracted by the trend towards democratization (IFAD). Linkage between agriculture and industry should be exploited to increase agricultural productivity and the domestic market for agricultural products (UNIDO, Habitat).

48. Rehabilitation of industrial capacity is needed in many developing countries. The priorities for rehabilitation should be based on a reassessment of the comparative advantages of each facility, given the extensive restructuring that has already taken place in many developed and developing countries, with consequent shifts in the patterns of comparative advantage and therefore in trade (UNIDO).

49. Concern about human rights and popular participation has increased in the 1980s and needs further emphasis in the 1990s (Centre for Human Rights). These rights would include free association (e.g. in labour unions), the abolition of forced labour and an end to the exploitation of female and child labour (ILO). More democratic development processes would promote efficiency

as well as equity (ECA) and would help to prevent internal and international conflicts. Responsibility for implementing human rights obligations is at present divided among various bodies in the United Nations system, according to the different groups to be protected and the types of rights. A more integrated approach may be needed, combining legal analysis with multidisciplinary understanding of development issues and projects, a focus on particularly disadvantaged groups, and grass-roots education in human rights (Centre for Human Rights).

50. Health is a fundamental human right and a world-wide social goal. It is also an essential aspect of human resources development and must receive greater attention in long-term development. The health-care systems of the future should be characterized by: (a) continuing improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of technical interventions; (b) compatibility with the socio-political system and integration in community, national, regional and global economic development; and (c) respect for human rights, while maintaining the principles of social justice and equity. In the 1990s and the early part of the next century, the majority of deaths in many developing countries will still be caused by treatable or preventable infectious or parasitic diseases. Yet, growing and ageing populations, new diseases and technologies, and increasing urbanization will continue to place greater and new types of demands on health-care systems everywhere. These demands are rapidly raising total health-care costs, while per capita incomes are stagnant in some countries. This conflict threatens to reduce the level or quality of health care. Advances in science and technology can make breakthroughs in many health fields but create sometimes ethical dilemmas when effective interventions are too costly to be made available to all who need them (WHO).

51. The human resources developed and utilized in the health-care sector represent a major occupational group in all societies. With the decline in support (supplies, transport, equipment and facilities, supervision and career development), these staff become unmotivated, inefficient and self-serving, thereby reducing the social return from the heavy public investment. There is a trend towards decentralization of the financing and provision of health and a need to balance the unequal bargaining power between suppliers and consumers. The providers in many countries control both the availability of health-care information and the access to treatment. More competition could promote quality and assist in limiting total costs. Health insurance systems must not give producers and consumers a blank cheque to increase the cost of service. The proper sharing of community, private and public responsibility is very important (WHO).

Conclusion - policy implications for the international community

52. The 1980s were characterized by emphasis on stabilization and structural adjustment in many developing countries. The preoccupation with adjustment, no matter how justified, has tended to push longer-term development thinking into the background (ILO). It is now recognized that adjustment must proceed simultaneously with long-term development (IMF). In the 1990s, greater

attention must be devoted to reducing the social costs of adjustment, while laying a foundation for sustainable growth and development. Underlying problems and issues have to be looked at in a new light: the role of the State in the development process and the changing balance between public and private sector activity; the more effective combination of efficiency and equity considerations in development decision-making and in the design and implementation of development programmes and projects; human resources programmes to productively absorb a huge supply of largely unskilled labour, as well as to produce the high-level skills required by economic transformation and more rapid economic growth; the prudent use of natural resources and the management of the environment to sustain development and improve the quality of life in developed and developing countries alike; the strengthening of institutions and participatory mechanisms so as to permit greater involvement in the adjustment and development processes by the people most affected; and the inclusion of fundamental rights (ILO, UNEP).

53. Despite the uncertainty of long-term forecasting, there are plausible reasons to believe that the world economy will perform better in the 1990s than the 1980s. However, the recovery may not benefit substantial parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America without reform of domestic policies. Experience at the World Bank and the IMF suggests that an outward-oriented development policy is the most likely to sustain growth, particularly when combined with the removal of price distortions and a stable macroeconomic environment (World Bank, IMF). Debt will continue to be a problem in many developing countries. It should be addressed through cash-flow relief, officially supported commercial bank debt and debt-service reduction and, where appropriate, bilateral concessional debt relief or concessional assistance in combination with appropriate adjustment policies (World Bank).

54. There will be a greater impetus for economic liberalization and entrepreneurship. Larger markets, less restrictive practices and, hopefully, a more rational allocation of resources with lower armament expenditure, will provide greater economic opportunities. There should be improved terms of trade for the agricultural sector vis-à-vis the non-agricultural sector in developing countries and greater support for rural development and strengthening of grass-roots institutions (IFAD, FAO). Given the unfavourable macroeconomic and external conditions facing many developing countries, strategies emphasizing agriculture as the leading sector hold promise for overcoming the major constraints to accelerated development (FAO). The growing concern for the environment will also intensify interest in the conditions in marginal and undeveloped areas prone to environmental degradation. Such concerns could raise the interest of the international community in mobilizing increased assistance for environmental preservation and poverty alleviation (IFAD). The trend towards greater international political/military security might open the way for increased efforts to achieve international economic security (UNCTAD).

55. Bank Group policies in poverty reduction aim at enhancing economic growth through more efficient use of the poor's most abundant resource - labour - expanding their income-earning opportunities and improving social services, in particular, health, education and nutrition, and providing social safety nets for the most vulnerable groups (World Bank).

C. Improvement of existing mechanisms for disseminating socio-economic forecasts, projections and qualitative analyses in a comprehensive and readily accessible form

56. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/52, the Task Force considered the report of the Secretary-General to the Council on proposals to improve the work of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments (E/1990/80 and Corr.1).

57. As background to its consideration of that report, the Task Force noted that the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1989/85, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1990 proposals that could be implemented within existing resources to improve the work of the United Nations on the early identification, analysis and monitoring of emerging problems in the world economy. In response to that request, the Secretariat reviewed various activities of the United Nations system as they relate to the analysis and forecasting of emerging global economic and social problems in the world economy and the existing information linkages supporting those activities. The report presented several proposals to improve existing analytical and forecasting activities on a coordinated basis and to strengthen the flow of information for the analysis and forecasting of world economic developments, both within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and national research units.

58. The annex to the report included an overview of the activities of the main intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies concerned with coordinating and providing key inputs into early identification, analysis and monitoring activities. It noted the economic and social surveys and reviews prepared by those agencies that provide periodic assessments of emerging developments of global concern and explore implications of possible directions of change. Modelling and forecasting activities, as they relate to the early identification, analysis and monitoring of world economic developments, were summarized. The compilation, processing and exchange of quantitative information, as well as regular meetings held among agencies to exchange information and discuss emerging economic developments, were also reviewed.

59. Experience at the World Bank shows that using common global assumptions as a base for detailed country forecasts contributes to the objectivity and consistency of the forecasts. Moreover, forecasts of commodity prices and debt should be based on common assumptions about industrial country growth, exchange rates and interest rates. Dissemination of alternative forecasts of such "global" variables can benefit analysts who use such forecasts as assumptions in more specialized work. The establishment of the LINK model at the United Nations provides the international community with analytically sound forecasts for a broad range of developing and industrial countries. The forecasts are disseminated through meetings of participants in Project LINK; these are also useful for the exchange of views on the economic outlook. There is great interest in comparisons of forecasts for understanding the

differences in logic between forecasts made by different institutions. The World Bank and the United Nations should continue to enhance their cooperation on modelling and on exchange of information (World Bank).

60. Exploring a possible additional forum for such exchanges, the United Nations autonomous research institutes and several entities of the United Nations Secretariat met on 11 July 1990 with a view to "enhancing practical cooperation among them, particularly in regard to the formulation and implementation of their programmes and plans". 3/ A second meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 1991, probably to focus on the theme of environment and development.

61. Based largely on the Secretary-General's report on early identification (E/1990/80 and Corr.1), the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1990/52. In the resolution the Secretary-General and ACC were requested to designate the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives as the focal point for the mutual exchange among agencies of assessments of prospective developments in the economic and social fields in order to improve existing mechanisms for disseminating socio-economic forecasts and projections in a comprehensive and readily accessible form. The request clearly derived from proposal 5, contained in the report:

> "Increased efforts by agencies should be made to improve existing mechanisms for disseminating socio-economic forecasts and projections in a comprehensive and readily accessible form. In order to improve the exchange of analytical data, forecasts and projections produced by organizations and bodies, consideration should be given to making the ACC Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives and its secretariat the focal point for the mutual exchange among organizations and bodies of assessments of prospective developments in the economic and social field. As the focal point, the Task Force should also act as a clearinghouse for information and documentation related to global modelling and forecasting activities carried out in the United Nations system and elsewhere."

62. The Task Force noted that there already has been an extensive spontaneous and informal exchange of information among agencies engaged in assessing economic and social developments and prospects. To some extent the activities of the Task Force also serve as a forum for contacts among agencies; through its Technical Working Group, it serves as a clearing-house for information about the global modelling and forecasting activities in the system. These activities may undoubtedly be made more effective by more careful planning of the meetings of the Task Force. However, any enlargement of the responsibilities of the Task Force would have to entail an increase in the extremely limited resources so far available to its secretariat.

63. The most obvious way to improve the existing mechanisms for general dissemination of socio-economic forecasts and projections would be to accelerate the present efforts to introduce modern information technology on a system-wide basis. According to the United Nations Advisory Committee for the

Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), there are almost 900 information services and computerized databases in the United Nations system - but many of them are difficult to access. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library of the United Nations, together with other sponsors, is trying to organize an international conference on accessing United Nations documentation and electronic databases, to be held in 1992. Rapid progress in linking these information systems would bring other benefits as well; it seems to be the only way to provide timely access to socio-economic forecasts and projections of the agencies, which are published throughout the year at different times.

64. Related to inter-agency dissemination of forecasts and projections was the Council's agreement (see paragraph 2 of resolution 1990/52) that, in order to improve analytical and forecasting activities on a coordinated basis, United Nations bodies and organizations, within available resources, should: (a) interact more closely by sharing common analytical databases and on-line access to one another's modelling environments through the use of advanced communication facilities, appropriately designed user interfaces, improved documentation and, if appropriate, special training in the use of those analytical tools. That agreement was derived from proposals 4 and 6, contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/1990/80 and Corr.1):

> "Proposal 4. The Technical Working Groups of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives are important forums where the technical basis of agency statistical data base and modelling activities are discussed and the consistency of data bases, forecasts and development scenarios promoted among agencies. Additional emphasis in these meetings should be given to strengthening cooperation and linkages in the areas of statistical data base systems, data base transfer mechanisms, the harmonization of analytical tools and economic models, and the improvement of information systems used for economic analysis and research purposes.
>
> "Proposal 6. Within the United Nations system an increased exchange of world development indicators would improve the overall consistency and coherence of analytical and forecasting activities. Towards that end, standards and guidelines for the transfer of information among organizations and bodies should be elaborated by the Technical Working Group on Statistical Data Bases of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. All agencies should establish on-line access and extract facilities to their data bases. Standards and data access procedures should be reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain consistent with advancing technological developments."

65. Related issues had been reviewed by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities. The Subcommittee and its Technical Working Group on Statistical Databases were actively pursuing the tasks related to statistical databases cited in the proposals. 4/ As the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives and its Technical Working Group were specifically concerned with the modelling and forecasting activities of agencies, the Task Force is requesting the Technical Working Group to continue its review of these matters

in the light of the concerns expressed in the Secretary-General's report and to bring to the attention of the Task Force, and perhaps ACC, such shortcomings as it may discover.

66. Members of the Task Force also emphasized, as they had at the nineteenth session, that the assessment of economic and social prospects was seriously hindered by the deterioration in economic databases in recent years. Basic data on trade and national accounts were years behind. Consistent and comparable economic data on many developing countries were retarded by inadequate national resources for data collection and compilation and weak international support. The Task Force also noted the dearth of timely social data. Thus, there should be an appropriate balance between new work on dissemination, e.g. the development of new types of software and the maintenance and development of adequate data collection at the country level.

67. With regard to making more effective use of the ACCIS information system and related types of electronic exchange of information, CCAQ (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) recently reviewed the need for wider training of United Nations personnel in the use of electronic data processing (EDP) systems. 5/

D. Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the United Nations system

68. In addition to requesting an outline of a report from the Task Force on the implementation of the International Development Strategy, for the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC in October 1991, the Organizational Committee had indicated that in its view it would be desirable to find a few quantifiable indicators that might be of use in assessing the system-wide implementation of the Strategy. It had asked the Task Force to suggest a suitable approach.

69. The members of the Task Force found that the thrust and orientation of the Strategy were in agreement with the strategies and work programmes of the agencies, although some of them would have liked it to reflect their priorities in greater detail. They were not anticipating any reorientations in their own programmes in response to the Strategy, but rather a change on the national level.

70. A note on "goals and strategies for the 1990s - operational implications of the Fourth IDS" (ACC/1991/OP/CRP.1), which was prepared for the meeting of CCSQ (OPS) in March 1991, and which the Task Force had also been asked to consider, suggested the need to translate the broad objectives of the Strategy into national sectoral goals for the guidance of resident coordinators and national Governments. That approach found general approval in the Task Force.

71. The Task Force did not see any need to search for new lead agencies for the implementation of different aspects of the Strategy; attempts to impose such arrangements from the outside were doomed to fail. Lead agencies were an

essential part of cooperation in the United Nations system, but their designation had been made in response to specific sectoral and intersectoral issues. The Task Force saw no need for new formal arrangements. There was already a great deal of inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

72. As for targets or simple indicators, the positions of the members of the Task Force were even stronger than they had been a year ago, when the Task Force had reported a divergence of opinion. Few agencies found management by targets feasible, and the Task Force was unable to agree with the Organizational Committee's suggestion that some quantitative indicators would facilitate the assessment of system-wide performance. It was strongly emphasized that indices relating to the performance of the world economy did not in themselves say anything about the performance of the United Nations system.

73. For the background paper for the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC, the following outline was adopted ad referendum:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE - ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Draft outline of background paper for the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC

I. Introduction

Purpose of the paper: To inform CPC and ACC at their Joint Meetings in October 1991, how United Nations agencies see their role in the implementation of the International Development Strategy, notably in assisting member States

II. Implementation by individual agencies - implications of the principles and goals stated in the Strategy

A. Compatibility with sectoral strategies and plans already adopted by governing bodies

B. Modifications in agencies' work programmes and medium-term plans

1. Possible need for greater selectivity or revised priorities to reflect the new elements in the Strategy

2. Procedures for and promotion of cooperation at the country level to establish national goals based on the Strategy and to assist Governments in formulating and implementing national policies, programmes and projects

III. Implementation through system-wide cooperation

A. Promoting international cooperation

1. International conferences

(a) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992

(b) International Conference on Nutrition, 1992

(c) Eighth session of UNCTAD, 1992

(d) International Conference on Population, 1994

(e) Others likely (e.g. Women and Development, 1995)

2. Facilitating intergovernmental negotiation of understandings, conventions and agreements

B. Review of existing arrangements for inter-agency collaboration, including lead agency roles, in interrelated human resource development activities, such as education, health, nutrition, housing, employment, child welfare and the advancement of women

IV. Monitoring and reviewing the IDS implementation of the Strategy

A. Relation of monitoring to different roles of agencies and Governments

B. Reporting procedures for agencies

1. Relation to monitoring already required by the special session

2. Relation to monitoring of sectoral aspects of the Strategy already requested by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, governing bodies of agencies, or other international agreements

C. Inter-agency cooperation for data improvement

1. Main shortcomings in internationally available sources

2. New indicators, which must be useful to national Governments

D. Procedures to be recommended by the Secretary-General for the biennial review and appraisal of the Strategy by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

Annexes

I. Brief statements by agencies of their proposed procedures for implementation, by themselves and in cooperation with other agencies

II. Agency statements on possible modifications to their medium-term plans or other statements of proposed work, in response to the Strategy

III. Existing and proposed multi-agency agreements relevant to Strategy topics (especially those cited in paragraph 94 of the Strategy; see section III.B of the outline)

Notes

1/ UNEP Governing Council resolution SS.II/9, 3 August 1990. The issues and approaches are reviewed in the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on priority evolving environmental issues (UNEP/GCSS.II/2, 28 May 1990).

2/ Based on UNEP/GCSS.II/2, and subsequent revision by UNEP, except as otherwise indicated.

3/ Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Training and research": UNITAR (A/45/634), annex I: "Co-operation among autonomous research institutes of the United Nations", prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 44/175, para. 15.

4/ Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-fourth session (ACC/1990/PG/6), paras. 34-37; and report of the Technical Working Group on Statistical Databases on its seventh meeting (SA/1990/2).

5/ Report of the fifteenth session of the Subcommittee on Staff Training (ACC/1991/PER/R.15, paras. 22-27.

Annex

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Secretary: Itsuo KAWAMURA (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs)

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